

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method for screening a chemical compound for activity in blocking the chloride channel CIC-7, which method comprises the following steps:

providing a test cell comprising one or more CIC-7 chloride channel channels expressed in osteoclasts and of the CIC family;

subjecting the test cell to the action of the chemical compound; and

measuring the ability of the chemical compound to block the ~~CIC-7~~ CIC-7 chloride channel, wherein the screening method identifies compounds having potential activity in treating osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, or Paget's disease of the bone; and

further measuring the efficacy of any chemical compound, which is identified as having the ability to block the CIC-7 chloride channel, in treating osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, or Paget's disease of bone.

10. - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~18~~ 9, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block the chloride channel CIC-7 but not having the ability to block a chloride channel selected from the group consisting of chloride channels CIC-1, CIC-2, CIC-4, CIC-5, CIC-Ka and CIC-Kb.

22. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~18~~ 9, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block specifically the chloride channel CIC-7.

23. - 28. (Cancelled)